

had turned into rivers of mud and ice. They unloaded their 2.5 ton trucks as mortars fell all around them.

Also, let us remember the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II who overcame resentment, suspicion and segregation to become the first African-American fighter pilots, and time and again they flew over 1,500 combat missions and never lost a single bomber under their escort on bombing runs into Germany. When African Americans broke the color barrier in the Marine Corps, they went to the frontlines of Guam, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Although these are just a few instances of African Americans having courage, valor, bravery and commitment to the ideas in preserving and fighting for freedom and justice for all. We as a people have a long history of achievement in defending and protecting America's sovereignty. It was revealed in a few, even though many African Americans in earlier years were excluded from recognition due to pervasive racism, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Congressional Medal of Honor was approved by President Lincoln on December 21, 1861 for the Navy and July 12, 1862 for the Army, it is the highest American award for military valor.

There were 23 Congressional Medals of Honor awarded to African Americans for bravery and gallantry in the Civil War. Eight Medals of Honor for Naval service recipients from 1865 to 1898, 17 Medals of Honor during the Western Campaigns, 6 Medals of Honor for the Spanish-American War, one Medal of Honor to Corporal Freddie Stowers of the 370th Infantry Regiment, 93rd Infantry Division which was awarded in 1991. Seven Medals of Honor for World War II African American veterans who were not awarded until 1997, when only one of seven—Vernon Baker—was still alive (four of the seven were killed in action).

Today, I commend all of our veterans who fought and lost their lives to defend our country from the Revolutionary war of 1775 to 1781, the War of 1812, Civil War 1861 to 1865, Spanish-American War 1898, World War I 1917 to 1918, World War II 1941 to 1945, Korean conflict 1950 to 1953, Vietnam conflict 1960 to 1972, Persian Gulf War 1991, and our future veterans of the Iraq conflict. Thank you for your service.

TRIBUTE TO THE ALABAMA SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN THE KOREAN WAR

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the soldiers from Alabama who answered President Truman's call to protect democracy and stop the spread of communist aggression across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, the Korean War was supposed to be a short and a decisive victory for our soldiers. However, from 1950 to 1953, our country was embattled in a bitter fight along the 38th Parallel. All told, over 750 soldiers from Alabama perished during this conflict. However, when the fighting ceased and the guns were finally silenced, South Korea remained a free and democratic state.

For many people, the Korean War is known as the forgotten war. This is an unfortunate

misrepresentation. Mr. Speaker, the Korean War set the precedent that the United States will not sit idle as aggressors invade and try to destroy another nation's freedom. The Korean War is a war that cannot, and will not be forgotten.

Tomorrow in Athens, Alabama, Edward McMunn and the other members of the Alabama Korean War Commemorative Committee will unveil and dedicate a monument to honor the Alabama soldiers who died during the Korean War. The monument includes a central marble stone memorial with an engraved map of Korea that is surrounded by four carved granite stones on pedestals bearing the names of each soldier.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow's ceremony is a fitting tribute to those that died in the defense of freedom and democracy. On behalf of all the residents of North Alabama, I commend Edward McMunn, and all the members of the Alabama Korean War Commemorative Committee, for their hard work and dedication that made this monument become a reality.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN M. WITKIN

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today at the White House, Evelyn M. Witkin was awarded the National Medal of Science Award, the nation's highest science and engineering honor.

"The ideas and breakthroughs in fundamental science and engineering by these extraordinary pioneers have influenced thousands of other researchers," said Rita Colwell, director of the National Science Foundation (NSF). "We now see the daily evidence of the tremendous advancements in technological capabilities, human health and vast new knowledge within our physical world due to these heroes of science we celebrate today," Colwell said.

The National Medal of Science, established by the 86th Congress in 1959 and administered by the NSF, honors the impact of individuals on the present state of knowledge in the physical, biological, mathematical, engineering, social and behavioral sciences. Not including the 2002 recipients, the medal has been awarded to 409 distinguished scientists and engineers, including three previous Rutgers winners.

Witkin was largely responsible for creating the field of DNA mutagenesis and DNA repair, which focuses on how mutations, most of which are unhealthy, occur in DNA and how they may be corrected. Her work, which furthered our understanding of the genetic response to harmful environmental factors such as radiation, has played an important role in the biochemical sciences and in clinical radiation therapy for cancer.

"I had no idea that anything like this was possible. I am very gratified by the award," said Witkin. "That I was nominated by colleagues means a lot to me, having been in the field of genetics since the mid-1940's."

Witkin's investigations into DNA repair led to her discovery of genes that can heighten bacterial resistance to DNA-damaging agents. In 1973, while on the faculty of Rutgers' Douglass College, she defined the *E. coli* "SOS Re-

sponse," a system that is triggered by DNA damage. This system activates at least 40 genes that promote DNA repair and enhances individual and population survival. We now know that humans and many other organisms use the same kinds of DNA repair mechanisms.

Witkin came to Douglass College in 1971 and taught in the department of biology for 12 years. She then spent eight years on the faculty of the Waksman Institute of Microbiology until her retirement in 1991.

I congratulate Evelyn Witkin on her award, and I thank her for the contribution she has made to improve our society.

IN RECOGNITION OF VETERANS' DAY 2004

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Veterans' Day. It is my honor to acknowledge the men and women who have fought in the Armed Forces to protect the United States from all enemies, foreign and domestic. Observed on November 11, each year, Veteran's Day is a national day of honor, respect, and remembrance of the sacrifice of the few to protect the freedoms of the many. So today I rise with pride for America's veterans, both past and present, and salute them for their service.

The year was 1918. On the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, the world was finally at peace after the bloody ending of WWI, the war to end all wars. Veteran's Day was first established as a national holiday on May 13, 1938, twenty years after the conclusion of the war, and was intended to honor those who fought in WWI. Originally called, "Armistice Day," this holiday was intended to celebrate world peace and mutual understanding among nations. Congress proclaimed that all government buildings display the flag of the United States as well as observe the day in schools, churches, and all other areas of public and private services.

Although Armistice Day was intended to honor only those who fought in WWI, the events of the next two decades quickly changed the sentiments of Americans. In 1954, after WWII claimed the most lives and machine power of any war in history, and following the conclusion of the Korean conflict, the 83rd Congress struck out the words "Armistice" and inserted "Veterans" in its stead. Thus, the national holiday observed on November 11th would no longer honor just those veterans of WWI, but all veterans of all wars and would hence be known as Veterans' Day.

Later that same year, President Eisenhower instituted a Veterans' Day Committee, which would be chaired by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs. This new committee, headed by the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, would oversee all appointments and national planning around the holiday.

The first major change to Veterans' Day came on June 28, 1968, when Congress passed the Uniforms Holiday bill. This bill sought to give the American people four, three-day holidays during the year. Those holidays included, George Washington's Birthday,